

## **PAS and PKR offer lifeline to DAP candidates**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**April 18, 2013**

**By Koh Jun Lin**

Both PAS and PKR have offered DAP their party tickets to field its candidates following the suspension of DAP's central executive committee by Registrar of Societies (ROS).

This was announced at a joint press conference this evening by the secretaries-general of all three Pakatan Rakyat parties - Lim Guan Eng of DAP, Mustafa Ali from PAS and Saifuddin Nasution of PKR.

Lim said this would likely take the form of its candidates in the peninsula standing under the PAS ticket, while its candidates in Sabah and Sarawak would stand under the PKR ticket.

DAP will hold a meeting tonight to finalise the arrangement, while both Mustafa and Saifuddin have pledged their party's support to whatever decision DAP may take on the use of their party symbols.

"They (PKR and PAS) will sign letters of authority for us and that is why they are here today, to attest to this.

"This is where we show that under crisis and under severe attack, you know who your real friends are. They will stand by you," Lim said.

Lim added that with the CEC being suspended, he as the secretary-general will no longer be able to issue letters of authority to DAP's candidates to allow them to stand under the party ticket.

Can the EC be trusted?

Asked the rationale for contesting under the PAS ticket in the peninsula and PKR in Sabah and Sarawak, Lim replied that it was for "balance".

He also expressed distrust of the Election Commission's assurance that DAP could still contest under its own logo.

Without a written guarantee, Lim (left in photo) said, this would be a risky proposition because it could leave its candidates contesting as independents if the letters of authority were declared invalid, or give rise to future disputes in court.

“Once you contest as an independent candidate, you will not be able to maximise on support because there will be other independents. You will not be the only independent candidate.

“So they will muddy the waters and you cannot maximise on your support to defeat the BN,” Lim said.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/227266>